Information, she said. About housing.

Johnny told her about Butch. How the CODE was getting him a pad.

The what?

Artscam only rents to artistes. So Butch qualified as an ARTISTE under The Dadanian Artiste Code....

It was a sub-section of the Dadanian Bill of Universal Rights and Freedoms....

Everybody had rights but some FOLKS more than others....

What did he do?

Decorated ghost bikes with swastikas. Painted rubber whales with Greenpeace slogans and sank them in Porkdale Park before an audience of matrons and their avid spawn on Ritalin....

So who wrote THE CODE?

Trixie Sane, Vixen Foxy Weasel-Theatre, Citizen Hearse, and some COW....

O, you mean Jane Jacobs.

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Johnny met him outside the Zombie Crypt. They should have gone for a coffee. They had swell resorts to choose from. Asylum Donuts. Handy Haven. Stoned Queen. Frequented by senile dements from the Fred Chopin Rest Home. Rag peddlers from Thing Street. Fronts for slumlords. Citizen Rudolph Hearse and Charles Waldorf Handy fronted for each other.

A regular (so to speak) started to harangue them. Something the matter with his neck made him hold his head at a crazy angle. The hydro-electric shock?

Quasimodo harangued them, called them the two stooges.

Quasimodo was survivor trash. He hung out at the Sally Anne. Volunteered. For first pick of all used jewelry as it came in. He'd squint at it through his genuine jeweler's loop, listing like the Titanic in A Night To Remember. He bought the best pieces and flipped them to U.S. tourists, in the harbor.

By volunteering he qualified for benefits from the social workers on Dungass. His worker cut him a cheque. Now he was doing the Crypt. His friends were pickers.

Porko asked Quasimodo if he wanted to make it three stooges.

No, he didn't.

Porko told him he'd seen one of the pickers a few minutes ago. In case he wanted to join him instead.

He didn't want to join him, either.

There was a picker dead ahead. Short-shorts, dress shoes, polo shirt, and (to top it off) a derby. Stunning!

Pickers never worked. They got packages. They could be found scouring the curb on

Garbage Night.

Pickers got annoyed when Johnny bought what they wanted, which was all the time because they wanted everything. Trouble was, they wanted it for free.

They usually wore a pinched, mean expression. Like they'd dickered with life and it still